**MEDIEVAL EUROPE COMPLETE NOTES**

Medieval Scavenger Hunt

1. Someone who works all day as a farmer to serve his lord: **Peasant/Serf**.
2. The head of the Roman Catholic Church: **Pope**
3. The lowest ranked of the lords: **Knight**
4. A woman who has taken a vow of chastity and loyalty to the Church: **Nun**
5. A man who is responsible for preserving ancient texts by recopying them carefully by hand: **Monk**
6. A man trained in the art of battle to defend his lords and king: **Knight**
7. A monk or nun who travels to convert others to Christianity: **Missionary**
8. Someone who, by law, may not leave their land: **Serf**
9. Someone who is often persecuted by Christians: **Jewish Person**
10. The person directly under the pope in the Church: **Archbishop**
11. A person who must divide his land (estate) into fiefs (smaller pieces of land) to give to the lesser lords: **Nobleman**
12. Someone who often fights with the pope over who has the most power: **King**
13. Someone who leads the local Church in prayer, guides the people in their spiritual lives, and helps them in troubled times: **Priest**
14. A man of the Church who is below the archbishop but above the priest: **Bishop**
15. A woman, also known as “lady” of the house, who must manage the estate when her husband is away serving his lord in battle: **Noblewoman**

**Europe in Medieval Times Notes 1**

**Medieval Times**

* As Roman Civilization declined, Europe became an isolated land of disunity, conflict and poverty.
* People no longer had the Roman Empire to unite and protect them
* Between 400 and 700, Germanic tribes carved Western Europe into small kingdoms.
* This signaled the beginning of the Medieval Period

**Feudalism**

* In Medieval Times, people lived difficult lives
* It took a lot of work to simply survive
* A political system called Feudalism was created to solve these issues
* Feudalism is:
  + A system where people pledge loyalty to a lord or powerful land holder and in return receive land and protection
* In Feudal society, people had distinct roles that they played
* At the top was the King
* Underneath the King were his nobles who he gave land to
* Nobles allowed knights, peasants , and serfs to live on their land in exchange for their loyalty to the Noble
* During the Middle Ages, people were born into a social class.

They had the same social position, and often the same job, as their parents.

**Roles in Medieval Society**

* The feudal system made sure each person played a distinct role for society to function.
* Without any one person in the system, the society would fail
  + King: The ruler of the land and the one who was in charge of making decisions
  + Lords and ladies - The noble men, or wealthy land owners who were given manors from the King. The Ladies were their wives and daughters
  + Knights- the sworn protectors of the King and Lords
  + Peasants- worked the land
  + Serfs- Peasants who were not free to leave the land

**Life in Medieval Europe**

At the start of the Middle Ages, most people lived in the countryside, either on feudal manors or in religious communities. But by the 12th century, towns were growing up around castles and monasteries (buildings where monks live) and along trade routes. These bustling towns became centers of trade and industry.

Almost all medieval towns were protected by thick stone walls. Visitors entered through gates. Inside, homes and businesses lined unpaved streets. Since few people could read, signs with colorful pictures hung over the doorways of shops and businesses. Open squares in front of public buildings, such as churches, served as gathering places.

Most streets were very narrow. The second stories of houses jutted out, blocking the sunlight from reaching the street. Squares and streets were crowded with people, horses, and carts—as well as cats, dogs, geese, and chickens. There was no garbage collection, so residents threw their garbage into nearby canals and ditches or simply out the window. In the houses, there was no in-door plumbing or hot water, so people rarely bathed. Trash was thrown onto the floor before tossed, which led to insects, rats, and odor. All these issues led to frequent disease.

**Homes and Households**

Medieval towns were typically small and crowded. Most of the houses were built of wood. They were narrow and could be up to four stories high. As wooden houses aged, they tended to lean. Sometimes two facing houses would lean so much they touched across the street!

Rich and poor lived in quite different households. In poorer neighborhoods, several families might share a single house. A family might have only one room where they cooked, ate, and slept. In general, people worked where they lived. Wealthy merchants often had splendid homes. The first level might be given over to a business, including offices and storerooms. The family’s living quarters might be on the second level. An upper level might house servants and apprentices.

Even for wealthy families, life in a castle was not always comfortable compared to life today. Rooms were cold, smoky, and dim. Fireplaces were the only source of heat, as well as the main source of light. Most windows were small and covered with oiled parchment instead of glass, so little sunlight came through.

Growing up in a medieval town wasn’t easy, either. About half of all children died before they became adults. Those who survived began preparing for their adult roles around the age of seven. Some boys and a few girls attended school, where they learned to read and write. Children from wealthier families might learn to paint and to play music on a lute (a stringed instrument). Other children soon began work as apprentices.

In general, people of the Middle Ages believed in an orderly society in which everyone knew their place. Most boys grew up to do the same work as their fathers. Some girls trained for a craft. But most girls married young, usually around the age of 15, and were soon raising children of their own. For many girls, their education was at home, where they learned cooking, cloth making, and other skills necessary to care for a home and family.

**Charlemagne\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* Around 800, Western Europe was united when an emperor built a vast empire
* The Emperor is known in history as Charlemagne or Charles the Great.
* He loved battle and conquered a lot of land, which reunited much of the old Roman Empire
* Charlemagne did many things to exercise control over his many lands and create a United Christian Europe.
* He worked very closely with the church; he helped spread Christianity to conquered peoples.
* He appointed powerful nobles to rule local regions.
* Education had declined so much that even the clergy (members of the Church) were sadly ignorant and uneducated.
* Charlemagne himself could read, but not write
* He felt nobles and clergy needed to keep accurate records and write clear reports.
* He founded a curriculum or formal course of study.
* Charlemagne’s legacy is that he spread Christianity to various parts of Europe

**The Church in the Middle Ages\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* The church was the center of Medieval llife
* Every town and manor had a church or cathedral
* The church was a daily presence in people’s lives
* People even measured how long to cook an egg based on how many prayers they said
* Just like feudal society, the church had a very strict structure

Pope

Archbishop

Bishop

Priests

Monks/Nuns

* The church had incredible power
* The only common language in Europe was Latin- The language of the church
* Only Church officials could read and write
* The church could excommunicate people which meant throwing them out of the church
* The church taught that the only way to salvation was through the sacraments

The Power of the Medieval Church

The Medieval Church played a far greater role in Medieval England than the Church does today. The only Church in Medieval Europe was the Roman Catholic Church. In Medieval Europe, the Church dominated everybody's life. All Medieval people - be they village peasants or towns people - believed that God, Heaven and Hell all existed. From the very earliest of ages, the people were taught that the only way they could get to Heaven was if the Roman Catholic Church let them. Everybody was terrified of Hell and the people were told of the sheer horrors awaiting for them in Hell in the weekly services they attended.

The control the Church had over the people was total. Peasants worked for free on Church land. This proved difficult for peasants as the time they spent working on Church land could have been better spent working on their own plots of land producing food for their families.

People paid 10% of what they earned in a year to the Church (this tax was called tithes). Tithes could be paid in either money or in goods produced by the peasant farmers. As peasants had little money, they almost always had to pay in seeds, harvested grain, animals etc. This usually caused a peasant a lot of hardship as seeds, for example, were needed to feed a family the following year. What the Church got in tithes was kept in huge tithe barns; a lot of the stored grain would have been eaten by rats or poisoned by their urine. So much of what the peasants paid in tithes went unused. A failure to pay tithes, the peasants were told by the Church, would lead to their souls going to Hell after they had died. People were too scared not to pay tithes despite the difficulties it meant for them.

Peasants also had to pay for baptisms (if you were not baptized you could not go to Heaven when you died), marriages (there were no couples living together in Medieval times as the Church taught that this equaled sin) and burials - you had to be buried on holy land if your soul was to get to heaven. Whichever way you looked, the Church received money.

The Church also did not have to pay taxes. This saved them a vast sum of money and made the Church far wealthier than any king at this time. Altogether, these made the Church very wealthy. It is best shown in its huge and elaborate buildings: cathedrals, churches and monasteries.

The Church believed that it had authority over the rulers. Kings and queens however, did not always recognize this authority. As a result, there were frequent power struggles between the pope and various kings. Popes believed that they had the authority over kings. Sometimes, the Pope excommunicated, or kicked out of the Church, rulers who challenged or threatened the Church’s power. For example, Pope Innocent III excommunicated King John of England in the 1200s during a dispute about appointing an archbishop.

**The Crusades: Guided Notes**

**The Holy Land**

* During the Middle Ages, Christians called Palestine/Israel the “Holy Land” because Jesus had lived there
* Many Christians wanted to see the places that Jesus had visited
* The Holy Land had been under Christian control, but was retaken by Muslims who were living there
* They soon began preventing Christians from visiting
* Rumors spread around Europe that Muslims were killing Christians and destroying Churches

**Pope Urban’s call**

* In 1095, Pope Urban II called on all European Christians to join together to unite together and fight the holy Crusades or wars against the Muslims
* The Pope wanted to take the Holy Land back from the Muslims

**The Crusades**

* Many European Christians made the long journey from Europe to the holy land to defeat the Muslims
* There were 7 crusades in total

**The Crusades**

* Reasons people went on Crusades
  1. 1. To seek wealth
  2. 2. To guarantee their salvation
  3. 3. Deep religious beliefs

**Impact of the Crusades**

* It is estimated that almost 1.7 million people died on the crusades
  1. This includes Christian crusaders and Muslims, as well as Jews who were massacred during the holy wars

**Impact of the Crusades on Europe**

* + **Ended Feudalism**: Kings grew more powerful as knights, nobles, and serfs left to fight which helped to eventually end feudalism
  + **Advanced civilization**: Europeans brought back new inventions and ideas such as algebra, the compass, and medicine
  + **Increase in trade**: Merchants became wealthy from trade with Muslims and new economic systems like banks and taxes developed

**Impact of the Crusades on Muslims**

* Since most of Crusades were fought on Muslim land, they faced mass destruction and large death-tolls
* There was a smaller long-term impact on the Muslims because Muslim society was much more advanced at the time
  + - Learned about new weapons and military ideas
    - Merchants became wealthy through trade with Europeans
    - Muslims became united against a common enemy

**Black Plague**

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| **Causes** | | **Effects** |
| **Trade between towns in Europe** | | **Mass deaths** |
| **Lack of sanitation—trash thrown in street, people don’t bathe** | | **Fewer workers result in workers demanding higher pay** |
| **Lack of medical knowledge** | | **Higher standard of living for all—more resources and less people** |
| **Term** | **Textbook Definition** | | |
| **Medieval** | A time period in Europe between 500 and 1450. Also known as the Middle Ages. | | |
| **Feudalism** | A political system in which you exchange land for protection and loyalty | | |
| **Serf** | Peasant/farmer who worked on a manor | | |
| **Chivalry** | Code of behavior that knights had to follow that focused on proper behavior and righteousness | | |
| **Manor** | Lord’s estate that consisted of a large house, church, farm land, and strict system of living | | |
| **Knight** | Mounted warrior who was considered a noble under feudalism and lived by a code of chivalry | | |
| **Secular** | Not related the church. Something that is worldly or not religious | | |
| **Sacraments** | The sacred rites of the church such as communion and baptism | | |
| **Crusades** | Holy war between Christians and Muslims for control of the Holy land. | | |
| **Excommunication** | People who disobeyed church laws were penalized by being asked to leave the church | | |